(e) whether Government has any plan to set up new colleges in Amroha, Moradabad, Azamgarh and Mau districts of Uttar Pradesh which are minority concentrated and educationally backward; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) There is a proposal to launch a new scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national GER for higher education. These include 62 districts identified by the Ministry of Minority Affairs as minority concentration districts where the population of the minority group is over 20% on the basis of the 2001 census data on population, and have poor socio-economic indicators and basic amenities indicators, 17 districts where minorities constitute 20% or more of the population and 36 districts which are dominated by those who are religious minorities nationally but are a majority in the respective States.

Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh figures in the list of identified educationally backward districts.

**Criteria for recognition of private colleges**

1102. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently criticised education regulators for the casual manner of giving recognition to private professional colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether to cleanse the education system, Government purposes to lay down fresh criteria for the recognition of private colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Promoting vocational courses**

1103. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn any policy for promotion of vocational courses in secondary schools to tackle problem of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary allocations in Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plans for vocational education in schools in Rajasthan and its utilisation;

(d) the total sanctioned and filled-in strength of vocational educational teachers, in different categories in Rajasthan;

(e) the number of students who have taken vocational education in Tenth Five Year Plan in Rajasthan; and

(f) how is overall vocational education scenario in Rajasthan and how does it compare with other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in 1988. Under the Scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to impart vocational education in Government and Government aided higher secondary schools to enhance employability.

(c) to (f) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education, no grant has been released to the State Government of Rajasthan during Tenth and Eleventh Plan period. Government of Rajasthan has discontinued implementation of the scheme since 1999-2000.

**Constitution of Yashpal Committee**

1104. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. (Retd.) Yashpal for examining the prevailing higher education system and render suggestion for reforms thereof;

(b) if so, the background of culmination of the committee;

(c) the details about the constitution of the committee, including its constituents, and terms of reference thereof;

(d) whether the committee has since submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details of its recommendations;

(f) whether Government is contemplating to implement the same;

(g) if so, the details thereof indicating time-frame proposed, if any, for implementation; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (h) A Committee to "Advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education" was constituted by the Government on 28th February, 2008, under Prof. Yash Pal with members is given in the Statement-I (*See* below). The terms of reference of the Committee are given in the Statement-II (*See* below). The Committee submitted its Report, the recommendations of which are given in the Statement-III (*See* below). While the other recommendations are under consideration of the Government, establishing an over-arching regulatory authority for over-seeing higher education in all its dimensions has been accorded a priority.